

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

The Second Reading

James 3:1-12

The First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens-- wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Psalm

Psalm 116:1-8

1 I love the Lord, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.

3 Then I called upon the Name of the Lord: *
"O Lord, I pray you, save my life."

4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.

5 The Lord watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, *
for the Lord has treated you well.

7 For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

8 I will walk in the presence of the Lord *
in the land of the living.

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue-- a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Susan Frier Brown in celebration of my husband, David Brown

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by Tommy & Melinda Smith in celebration of Addi Speight's Birthday

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Margot Lindsey
 2nd: Michael Buckner
 3rd: Ruby Hahne
 3rd: Tasha Root
 4th: Gloria Richards
 11th: David Brown
 11th: Terisa Kirschke
 17th: Diane Buffington
 19th: Robyn Murphy
 19th: Roxanne Brink
 23rd: Kyle Glave
 24th: Caroline Tucker
 26th: Lillian Tucker
 27th: Helen Daniel Glave
 27th: Ava Rook

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, September 18, 2024
 6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, September 22, 2024
 9:00 am Bible Study
 10:00am Holy Eucharist: Fr. Andrew Terry

Blessing of the Animals

Join us **Sunday, October 6th at 1:00 PM** for the Annual Blessing of the Animals. Dogs, Cats, and other pets-small and large, furry, and non-furry are all welcome. Kids are welcome to bring a stuffed animal to bless.

Please begin to bring dog food and other dog items to be donated to the local animal shelter.

Church Wide Bible Study

The study, titled "The Path," will commence on Sunday, **October 6th at 9:00 AM**. It features excerpts from Scripture guiding you from the creation narrative to the conclusion of Revelation. The primary coursebook for adults includes both the reading passages and study questions. Correspondingly, the Family Story book is organized into identical chapters, containing the same narratives along with discussion questions for families. Additionally, a coloring book will be offered. For those interested in purchasing any of these books, a sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to donate the flowers for the service, the Flower Dedication forms for 2024 are in the narthex.

This Sunday's Servers

Acolytes: Jonathan Roberts
Cameras & Streaming: Melinda Smith
Danny's Team: Laura Buckner
Eucharistic Ministers: Joshua Martinez
Greeter: Diane Buffington
Lector: Roxanne Brink
Nursery Helper: Marie Tucker
Ushers: David Brown, Stan Williams
Vestry People: Stan Williams, Tommy Smith
Worship Tech: Amy Brown

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Mtr. Tracey
- Andrew McWhorter
- Libby Menger
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine and Margie Litterski

Bereavement For:

- Pete Litterski's Family
- William Read's Family

Other Prayer Request:

- Jonathan secures employment, enabling the Bowman family to relocate to Longview.

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
08/18/24	\$4,540	\$3,302	\$1,238
08/25/24	\$2,661	\$3,302	-\$641
09/01/24	\$2,194	\$3,302	-\$1,108
09/08/24	\$1,647	\$3,302	-\$1,655
YTD TOTALS	\$123,850	\$118,878	\$4,972

Next Sunday's Servers (09/22)

Acolytes: Diane Buffington
Cameras & Streaming: Michael Greathouse
Danny's Team: Bryan White
Eucharistic Ministers: Amy Brown
Greeter: Susan Kuhlman
Lector: David Brown
Nursery Helper: Carolyn Deakins
Ushers: Joe Frank Brown, Louis Zak
Vestry People: Bryan White, Joshua Martinez
Worship Tech: Wayne Workman

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church
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